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## Nation Speculates

Once the stunning initial shock brought on the world by President Kennedy's assassination had to some extent diminished, the inevitable political speculations and prognostications began. For a new President means new policies or variations in policies, just as it means that new faces will become prominent in the councils of government.

What manner of man is Lyndon Johnson, and what course can he be expected to take as Chief Magistrate?

He is, to begin with, a political strategist of the first order, as he demonstrated time and time again during his tenure as majority leader of the Senate. He knows how to get things done. He is personally popular. Back of this are many years of experience in government, and an intimate knowledge of what can and cannot be accomplished. He knows the truth of the old adage—that government is the art of the possible.

It is to be expected that he will be given widespread bipartisan support. Almost all Presidents enjoy a legislative "honeymoon" at the beginning of their terms. And Mr. Johnson has an additional advantage in his connections and friendships in Congress. This does not mean that Congress will suddenly become a rubber stamp to be handled at will by the Executive. But the general consensus is that he may have better luck with his programs than did his predecessor.

Of very great importance, Mr. Johnson was an active Vice President. He was kept in close touch with all governmental affairs. In this, President Kennedy followed a precedent set by President Eisenhower. Mr. Nixon, as Vice President, was ready to succeed to the top office, had that become necessary. By way of contrast, when President Truman took over there were vital areas of knowledge which were strange to him. He had not even been told about the successful development of the atomic bomb. He thus had to go through an extremely difficult period, through no fault of his own. That will not be true of Mr. Johnson.

What of policy? Mr. Johnson is a Southerner. He is a Westerner too, and these regional attachments undoubtedly color his attitudes. In domestic policy, going by his Senate record, he will be somewhat more conservative than Mr. Kennedy—more inclined to make haste slowly. He will seek, so far as that is possible, to minimize and to eliminate controversies and extreme disagreements.

It is most unlikely that there will be any major change in foreign policy. It is significant that one of the new President's first statements was to say it is this nation's continued purpose to help press to a successful conclusion the war against communism in Vietnam.

Finally, on the Republican side, the terrible tragedy that brought about the abrupt change in national leadership has resulted in some confusion. Some think Senator Goldwater's chances for the nomination have been injured, for the reason that there would be less contrast in viewpoint between him and Mr. Johnson than between him and Mr. Kennedy. There is talk of Richard Nixon being nominated again. It is all in the lap of the Gods as yet, but increased struggles by the leading Republican figures for the nomination can be expected.

In the meantime the nation has gained new respect for the office of the President—and a new knowledge of the courage and sacrifice that is demanded of the men who fill it.

## Old-Time Christmas

The old-time Christmas, with its simple virtues and traditions, has largely become a part of history. This was the Christmas of homemade toys and gifts, of candlelighted trees gay with strings of popcorn and paper ornaments. And something has been lost because of the inevitable changes in the Christmas celebration that the swiftly-passing years have brought. We live in an era of vast material abundance. But the very weight of this lavish materialism can undermine that spiritual abundance which is of infinitely greater importance.

What must never be allowed to change is the Christmas spirit and the Christmas story of the Christ Child. Charity, faith, kindness, courage, strength in the face of adversity—these are among the qualities which Christmas, in its magnificent symbolism, stands for. These, too, are qualities which are far too rare in a world torn with jealousies and troubles and marred with cynicism and selfishness.

At any rate, Christmas is almost here again. Let it be a time when children are made happy—for Christmas, the heart of Christmas, is theirs most of all. And let it be a time when we who are older recall what the true meaning of Christmas is.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." These magnificent old words will be spoken once more, and the great old music will sound. We have not realized that hope. But each of us, at Christmas, should resolve to do whatever he can to make it come true.

## Opinions of Others

BOONE, IOWA, NEWS-REPUBLICAN: "A newspaper is a private enterprise dedicated to the public good. A good newspaper must show a profit. In some countries the newspapers are the instruments of the government, but not so in the United States. That is what is meant by freedom of the press. In this country newspapers are free to express themselves without fear of government retaliation."

SALDING, NEBR., ENTERPRISE: "The big pay increases for top-level government personnel are enough to make any ordinary congressman or cabinet member drool with anticipation. So how about a little sporting proposition: The first year Congress and the Administration are able to balance the federal budget, let that be the year they enact these pay raises."

## And What Can I Do For You?



James Dorias

## Consolidation of School Districts Under Study

By JAMES DORIAS

One of the few things the warring State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction agree on these days is that the state legislature, last year, gave short shrift to the financial needs of the California public school system.

For many years, California school districts have depended for roughly half their financial support from the local property tax, and the other half from the state general fund, chiefly supported by the state sales tax. But as inflationary pressures increase school costs, the state's share of school support tends to drop.

Last year, school organizations asked for approximately \$100 million in new state support. After a series of complicated legislative maneuvers the schools finally received only \$25 million.

A problem of this magnitude can't, of course, be swept under the rug, and school finance can be expected to be a major issue of the 1964 legislative session.

A challenging new approach to the thorny problem was broached last week by Francis J. Carr, manager of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's tax department, before the annual meeting of the Stanislaus County Taxpayers Association in Turlock.

One of the most knowledgeable men in California on the subject of school finance, Carr proposed a ten-year legislative plan to accomplish, among other goals, mandatory county-wide unified school districts, a formula for equal sharing of county and state support, and state-wide machinery for expenditure control by such county-wide districts, "perhaps involving absolute limits on expenditures per pupil (to replace the presently meaningless tax rate limits)."

The Carr proposal should receive ardent support from school administrators, who have long favored the consolidation of school districts, and conversely, the opposition of those who fear the loss of effective local control of educational policies.

But from the standpoint of an improved formula for school financing, the Carr proposals could provide a badly needed starting point for new and imaginative thinking on the entire problem.

A host of questions immediately come to mind. For example: are counties necessarily a logical unit for school administration? (County populations vary from Alpine County with 397 people, to Los Angeles, with a population of 6,038,771.)

If local control is to be sacrificed to fiscal efficiency, might not the state itself be

the proper unit, with administration broken down into regional districts of approximately the same population size? Should a state property tax for school support be instituted to supplant local property taxes, thus eliminating inequities in local tax rates? Or should the property tax for school support be

abandoned completely, in favor of increased state sales and income tax rates?

If the Carr proposals can spark a radical re-thinking on the whole vastly complicated subject of public school finance, within the framework of educational goals, they will have served a tremendously useful purpose.

## Bookman's Notebook

### 'Profiles in Courage'

by William Hogan

"This has been a book about courage and politics," John F. Kennedy wrote in an epilogue to "Profiles in Courage" (1956). "Politics furnished the situations, courage provided the theme..."

The young Senator finished his book while recuperating from surgery involving injured discs of his spine. In a sense, "Profiles in Courage" was a blend of his own literary and political aspirations.

It was a study of members of the American Congress, mainly the Senate. Among them were John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, George W. Norris, Sam Houston, Thomas Hart Benton, Charles Evans Hughes, Robert A. Taft. It was a dramatic and skillfully written book in Mr. Kennedy's own ringing words, in spite of later slander that Theodore Sorenson, his research assistant, had written most of it.

The book won a Pulitzer Prize in 1957. This helped to implant the Senator in the public consciousness as a possible presidential contender.

In a moving quotation at the end of his book, Mr. Ken-

nedly looked back at an eulogy delivered by Senator William Pitt Fessenden of Maine upon the death in 1866 of Senator Foot of Vermont:

"When, Mr. President, a man becomes a member of this body (the Senate), he cannot even dream of the ordeal to which he cannot fail to be exposed; of how much courage he must possess to resist the temptations which daily beset him;

of that sensitive shrinking from undeserved censure which he must learn to control; of the ever-recurring contest between a natural desire for public approbation and a sense of public duty;

of the load of injustice he must be content to bear, even from those who should be his friends; the imputations of his motives; the sneers and sarcasms of ignorance and malice;

all the manifold injuries which partisan or private malignity, disappointed of its objects, may shower upon his unprotected head.

"All this, Mr. President, if he would retain his integrity, he must learn to bear unmoved, and walk steadily onward in the path of duty, sustained only by the reflection that time may do him justice, or if not, that after all his individual hopes and aspirations, and even his name among men, should be of little account to him when weighed in the balance against the welfare of a people of whose destiny he is a constituted guardian and defender."

"They say life has but two blessings, the art of love and the love of art."—Charles E. Seel, Greater Atlantic City (N. J.) Reporter.

"When you are young you do a lot of wishful thinking. When you are old you do a lot of thoughtful wishing."—Ralph Nicholson, Brundidge (Ala.) Banner.

"Never brag. If you deserve praise, you don't need it. If you don't deserve it, nobody will believe you anyway."—Robert G. Campbell, Litzitz (Pa.) Record-Express.

## AFTER HOURS By John Morley

# Eye Witness Report-- Morocco, King Hassen

CASABLANCA—From Rabat to Casablanca, judging from the enthusiastic receptions we have seen... if Morocco's five million voters went to the polls to elect a ruler, overwhelmingly it would be 34-year-old King Hassan II.

Hassan is confident and suave, as he faces visitors or the press in his regal cedar-paneled office, dressed in a smartly-cut tight-fitted Italian suit.

His immediate goal is Maghreb... which is the Arabic term for North Africa, from Egypt to the Atlantic ocean. After last year's setback to unite nationalists of North and West Africa, the king now is concentrating on his feud with Algiers and Ben Bella.

Unlike his father, King Mohammed V, whom we had interviewed on several occasions, King Hassan II rules Morocco with an iron hand, through the "Front for the Defense of Constitutional Institutions."

And unlike his father, he has become a dictator.

Hassan does not tolerate any opposition. In Rabat, his police arrested over 100 leaders of an opposition party, the National Union of Popular Forces... and another 100 here in Casablanca.

Among the arrested were A. Bouabid, former deputy premier... A. Youssefi, and 25 members of the Chamber of Deputies elected last summer.

Three reporters, including John Cooley of the Christian Science Monitor, were also arrested. I was lucky not to be with them.

Even the officials who helped his father sever colonial ties with France and Spain and make an independent Morocco in 1956 have been imprisoned or sent to exile. The trend toward constitutionalism begun by King Mohammed has been sharply reversed.

"King Hassan has a mania for creating enemies," a foreign diplomat remarked to me. "He is making martyrs of a lot of unworthy politicians."

Another said, "It may cost him his life or the dispute with Algeria."

According to my sources at the National Bank of Issue, the national income of \$1.5 billion is exceeded by spending of nearly \$2 billion.

His is the second deficit since his father's death in February 1961... and there are no credits in sight. With U.S. military bases abandoned, millions of dollars of income has also been cut off.

In spite of the economic plight of the country, probably 90 per cent of the people approve Hassan.

"Why this is," a Western diplomat said to me, "is another mystery of the desert."

Ever since Hassan ascended to the throne of Morocco in March 1961, after the unexpected death of his father from nasal surgery, his major concern was to win popularity. He accomplished this by unprecedented exposure to the public.

On Fridays and all religious holidays the king dons the white prayer robe of

Amir Al Mouminin, Commander of the Faithful, and leads his devout Moslems in prayer.

On feast days, he is always host at mammoth royal receptions with fireworks, fanfare, music and distributing thousands of traditional honey cakes, mint tea and almond milk.

Hassan has made himself available to hear petitions and protests of even the lowest among his subjects.

His adherence to royal tradition is in the traditional custom of obscurity for his wife. Her identity is unknown... and he does not show her publicly to receive recognition by Moroccans until she gives birth to a male heir. Girls don't count in the "King business" in Morocco.

Hassan can be described as a youthful De Gaulle, who generally disdains the council and criticism of his advisers and relies principally on personal popularity.

We will report the Algerian side of the Morocco dispute

from Algiers in our next report to the U.S.

From Casablanca, it appears that the strip of desert in question along the border, is more for reasons of national pride than actual worth, even in oil.

Prestige and saving face... or putting it in another way—a flexing of muscle—seems to be at the forefront of North African maneuvering with Nasser, Ben Bella and Hassan. The winner could well become the undisputed leader of Maghreb... and probably the entire Arab-Moslem world in the Middle East.

"At the University of Bordeaux where I obtained my law degree," Hassan said, "I thought it would benefit my official duties in Morocco. I later went to military school for the same reason. In both instances I was taught public relations. Now the problem seems to be which of the three to apply at what moment."

("Eye Witness Report... Algiers" in next issue of After Hours.)

## Our Man Hoppe

# Weird Rites In D.C. Bared

Art Hoppe

WASHINGTON—To fill a crying need, I've been collecting notes for a new chapter of my book, "Strange Native Customs in Washington & Other Savage Lands." The need, of course, is for romance. You can't sell a book without it.

Unfortunately, during years of research in this backward culture, the word never cropped up. And I had come to the reluctant conclusion it was not part of the native vocabulary, they having no need for it in their primordial savagery. What a shame. How would I sell my book?

So imagine my delight to hear the natives at last using a word which sings with romance, which sparkles with romance—a word which is the very essence of romance: "Honeymoon."

Ah, honeymoon! Surely, I thought, as I set forth eagerly with notebook in hand, even a Washington honeymoon must simply reek of romance.

Well, no, it turns out, it doesn't. Actually, the Washington Honeymoon bears no resemblance at all to a honeymoon in civilized countries. Indeed, it more closely conforms to The Secret Vestal Sacrifice & Pig Roast Festival as practiced by the aboriginal Quixioltl (cq) Indians of North Ugulap (cq).

The victim of the Washington Honeymoon, however, is a mature adult male. Otherwise the rites are identical. The subject is placed on a high altar. All then dance around him, singing his praises, crying out what a fine man he is, what a pillar of virtue, what a tower of strength.

And each native competes to shout the loudest and most laudatory tributes.

The ritual of the Washington honeymoon lasts from 30 to 100 days. Then, just as with the Quixioltl (cq), every native draws his knife and they chop the victim into tiny little pieces.

The Quixioltl (cq), of course, have a clear dogma for their Vestal Virgin Sacrifice. They believe it appeases the Great God Mbumu and prevents him from transforming North Ugulap (cq) into a mound of iguana guano. They thus flatter and fatten their Vestal Virgins for 30 or more days the better to satisfy Mbumu.

But ask a Washington native why he praises and flatters the victim of The Washington Honeymoon. And he will mutter, "National Unity." Which is one of the many gods the natives pay lip service to. Yet ask him then why he carves up the victim at the end of the Honeymoon and he replies: "Healthy Criticism." Which is a totally different god.

So the Washington native, unlike the more rational Quixioltl aborigine, fattens up the victim for one god and then inexplicably sacrifices him to another. You would think the local natives would tremble at giving such offense.

Of course, the circumstances are different. The Quixioltl (cq) behave as they do for fear their beloved North Ugulap will be transformed into a mound of iguana guano. And, after all, looked at in this way, what's the Washington native got to lose?

So much for romance in Washington.

## Morning Report:

President Lyndon Johnson moved his own rocking chair into the White House. But, so far anyway, he seems plenty satisfied with all the major policies of President Kennedy.

And most of those policies were having a rough time in Congress. Everybody is now wondering if the new President will have any better luck. Mr. Johnson is known, on Capitol Hill, as a man who can squeeze a hand or twist an arm out of place. He'll probably have to do plenty of both.

It will be a terrible irony if President Johnson gets through the program for which Mr. Kennedy died trying to make more popular.

Abe Mellinkoff